

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 IO-13 /150 W
----- 032494 /50 45

O 161800Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2115

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

UFHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE 0049

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

UDOHAA/AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE 0724

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG OPEC QA

SUBJ: OPEC MINISTERIAL: BITS AND PIECES

REF: PAGANELLI/COUNTRYMAN TELECON DEC 16, DOHA 1379

1. DURING THE LULL FOLLOWING YAMANI'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE FROM DOHA, MINISTERS OTAYBAH OF UAE, AMUZEGAR OF IRAN, AND HERNANDEZ ACOSTA OF VENEZUELA GRANTED INTERVIEWS LATE THIS AFTERNOON WITH VARIOUS GROUPINGS OF JOURNALISTS.

2. AS REPORTED IN REF TELECON, OTAYZAH TOLD TWO US JOURNALISTS THAT YAMANI WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE RETURNING TO DOHA FOR CONCLUSION OF MEETING. OTAYBAH APPEARED GENUINELY WORRIED THAT THERE IS REAL POSSIBILITY THAT IMPASSE BETWEEN SAUDIS/UAE AND EVERYONE ELSE WILL CONTINUE AND THAT SITUATION POSES REAL THREAT TO OPEC. UAE DELEGATE EVEN SAID THAT IF OTHER OPEC MEMBERS DO NOT GIVE GROUND SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE WILL PRICE AND SELL THEIR OIL INDEPENDENTLY. OTAYBAH ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE MIGHT ALSO LEAVE THE CONFERENCE EARLY--NOT IN PROTEST BUT AS A SHOW OF CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT. OTAYBAH APPARENTLY WANTS THE SAUDIS TO SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY UPWARD AND OTHERS TO MOVE DOWN IN HOPE THAT COMPROMISE AT AROUND 10 PERCENT CAN BE REACHED.

3. HERNANDEZ ACOSTA SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS ISOLATED AND STILL MAKING CASE FOR CONTINUED FREEZE. ACCORDING TO VENEZUELAN, UAE'S POSITION IS 5-10 PERCENT WHILE MOST OF THE OTHERS ARE PRESSING HARD FOR 15 PERCENT. HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF TWO STAGE INCREASE AS COMPROMISE. FIRST STAGE INCREASE OF LESS THAN 10 PERCENT WOULD SAVE FACE FOR SAUDIS AND SECOND STAGE INCREASE WHICH WOULD BRING TOTAL INCREASE TO APPROXIMATELY 15 PERCENT WOULD SATISFY HAWKS. HERNANDEZ ACOSTA ADDED THAT TWO STAGE APPROACH WOULD HAVE

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ADDITIONAL BENEFIT OF SAVING OPEC MINISTERS FROM UNPLEASANT TASK OF CONSIDERING ANOTHER INCREASE THIS SUMMER. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE BEING REACHED FOR SINGLE INCREASE OF 10 PERCENT. FINAL IMPORTANT POINT MADE BY HERNANDEZ ACOSTA WAS THAT VENEZUELA AND KUWAIT HAVE PROPOSED AN INCREASE IN OPEC FUND OF \$1.5 BILLION.

4. INTERVIEW WITH AMUZEGAR WAS A RE-RUN OF HIS INTERVIEW THIS MORNING BY QATAR NEW AGENCY (REFTEL). HOWEVER, A PRESS SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT DURING CONFERENCE, AMUZEGAR RULED OUT TWO STAGE PRICE HIKE FORMULA.

5. AFTER MID-AFTERNOON INTERVIEWS, OPEC DELEGATIONS (MINUS YAMANI) HELD A 2 1/2 HOUR SESSION WHICH CLOSED ABOUT 1900. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY DECISIONS WERE REACHED OR THAT THERE WAS ANY SHIFT IN POSITIONS ON PRICE.

6. QATAR NEWS AGENCY IS REPORTING THAT GOQ'S ALI JAIDAH HAS BEEN

ELECTED NEW OPEC SEIGEN AND HIS DEPUTY AT QATARI PETROLEUM
MINISTRY
ABDULLAH SALLAT HAS BEEN NAMED CHAIRMAN OF OPEC BOARD.

7. MINISTERIAL SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE AT TEN A.M. LOCAL TIME
DEC 17 WITH OR WITHOUT YAMANI.
PAGANELLI

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